

HELLSTROM et al
Appl. No. 10/578,848
March 18, 2010

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of determining whether an individual having hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection will respond to interferon alpha (IFN α) treatment, the method comprising:
 - i) obtaining a pre-treatment sample from said HBV-infected individual, and
 - ii) analyzing said pre-treatment sample for the presence or absence of antibodies reactive with a preS1 peptide consisting of the sequence of residues 94-117 (SEQ ID NO:1);wherein the presence of said antibodies in said pre-treatment sample indicates that said individual will respond to said treatment and the absence of said antibodies in said pre-treatment sample indicates that said individual will not respond to said treatment.
- 2.-3. (Cancelled).
4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the individual has chronic HBV infection.
5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the individual is HBeAg positive.
6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the individual is HBeAg negative.

HELLSTROM et al
Appl. No. 10/578,848
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7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein, in step (ii), said pre-treatment sample is analyzed for the presence or absence of IgG or IgM antibodies reactive with said preS1 peptide.
8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the pre-treatment sample is a blood, serum or plasma sample.
9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein step (ii) comprises:
contacting the pre-treatment sample with a preS1 peptide consisting of the sequence of residues 94-117 (SEQ ID NO:1) and;
detecting the presence or absence of binding of said antibodies to said preS1 peptide.
10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein the preS1 peptide comprises a detectable label.
11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein said preS1 peptide is immobilised.
12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein said binding is detected with a labelled secondary antibody.
- 13.-19. (Cancelled).

HELLSTROM et al
Appl. No. 10/578,848
March 18, 2010

20. (Currently Amended) A method of treating an HBV infection in an individual identified as being responsive to IFN α comprising:

- i) obtaining a pre-treatment sample from an HBV-infected individual, and
 - ii) analyzing said pre-treatment sample for the presence or absence of antibodies reactive with a preS1 peptide consisting of the sequence of residues 94-117 (SEQ ID NO:1);
- wherein the presence of said antibodies in said pre-treatment sample indicates that said individual will respond to IFN α treatment, and;
- administering IFN α to said individual identified as being responsive to IFN α .

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 20 further comprising administering corticosteroid to said individual identified as being responsive to IFN α .

23. (Cancelled).